

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA

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SUPERINTENDENT

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Dear Friend of Education:

As the Mayor and I discussed in Thursday morning's briefing at City Hall, I very much hope that you will agree to be one of our "education ambassadors." While the school district still has a long way to go, with your help, we have made impressive progress in the past two years.

It is important both to celebrate these gains and make sure that others in the community know about them:

- Graduation rates are up to 60%
- More than half our students are meeting state standards in reading and math for the first time ever
- 7-point reading gains in high schools alone last year
- 58,000 students enrolled in summer school
- More than 12,000 parents taking courses at our Parent University
- And many more signs of progress

We greatly appreciate your support and hope that you will help spread the word.

To that end, I have attached PDFs of the handouts from the briefing which we hope you will share electronically with your networks.

If you prefer, we can also provide printed copies of each piece for you to distribute. Just contact my assistant Patricia Cyrus (pcyrus@philasd.org) and let her know how many you would like.

Also, please do not hesitate to contact me directly with any comments or questions at aackerman@philasd.org. I am hoping Thursday was the start of a deeper dialogue that ultimately will benefit all of Philadelphia's students who are counting on us for sustained leadership and support.

Thank you in advance for your continued help.

Respectfully,



Dr. Arlene Ackerman
Superintendent
School District of Philadelphia